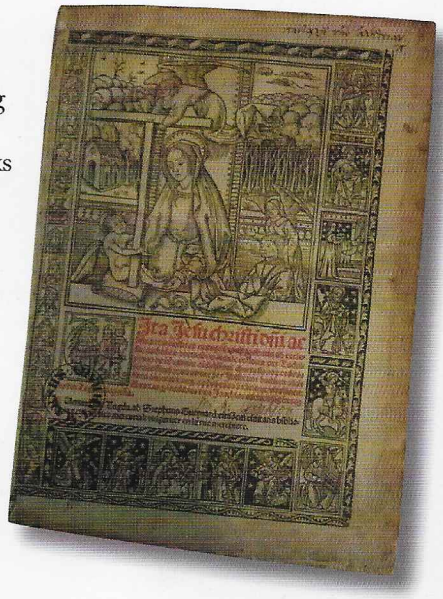
The **Second Gallery** is less imposing than the first: the proportions between the bays are less generous and the ceiling is not vaulted. The north-facing orientation means that this gallery is always several degrees colder than the rest of the library. The chill one often experiences on entering this gallery surely explains why there are persistent stories of a ghost in the library.

On the left-hand side of the gallery is Archbishop Narcissus Marsh's personal collection of books. Marsh was a talented linguist and his collection is particularly strong in Hebrew, Arabic, Aramaic, Syriac and other related languages. Marsh had a strong interest in the great scientific developments of his time, and owned a first edition of Isaac Newton's famous work on gravity, *Principia Mathematica* (1687). When Marsh died his books were bequeathed to this library, but his impressive collection of oriental manuscripts went to the Bodleian in Oxford.

On the right-hand side of the gallery is the personal library of John Stearne, Bishop of Clogher. This bequest is more literary than the other three collections, with a surprising number of plays and poems. It is also the collection with the greatest number of books about Irish affairs. The rest of the library is strongly European in its focus.

The lockable **cages** at the end of the second gallery were designed to prevent readers from stealing the books.



TOP RIGHT: A 17TH CENTURY MAP OF IRELAND.
RIGHT: THE COPY OF VITA JESU (LYON, 1510)
OWNED BY NARCISSUS MARSH.